tier fortresses, and of the cities of Laon and Soissons, I have come to Paris to concert measures for the national defence with my ministers, and to come to an understanding with the Chamber concerning all that the safety of the country demands.

I have appointed as a Committee the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Carnot, and the Duke of Otranto to renew and continue the negotiations with the Powers, so as to discover their real intentions and to put an end to the war, providing that is compatible with the independence and honour of the Nation.

My political existence is at an end.

8§5d, *morning:*

If they mean to use force with me, I shall not abdicate. I must be left to come to my decision in peace. Tell them to wait.

4. P.M.:

Lucien, write: When I began the war to maintain the national independence, I counted on the unanimous support of every individual, of every official. I had good reason to anticipate success. Circumstances appeared to be changed. I offer myself as a sacrifice to the hatred of the enemies of France. I only hope that their declaration may prove sincere, and that their hostility is solely to my person. Let all unite for the public safety and to remain an independent nation. I proclaim my son, under the style of Napoleon II, Emperor of the French.

They have forced me to it!